

# CITY COLLEGE NEWS

OCTOBER 1996

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

VOLUME 14 NO.2

## New season, new location for theatre, dance programs

Plumbers, electricians, actors and dancers will now study side-by-side at George Brown.

The Performing Arts Department made the move to Casa Loma Campus from the now closed Kensington Campus.

After a year at Kensington, the department has taken up new quarters on the first and second floors of 160 Kendal Ave. at Casa Loma. Production activity, rehearsals and evening classes will still be housed in the theatre building at 530 King St. E.

The department is made up of two schools:

- The theatre school, considered by many in the industry to be one of the best in the country, is

a three-year, post secondary program. Students are trained by professionals from the industry in the technique of acting. As the program has grown in reputation it has found itself in the enviable position of having to audition ever-increasing numbers of applicants for the few places available in the first-year class.

- The School of Classical and Contemporary Dance, a partnership between the college and Ballet Jörgen — a professional ballet company, offers dance training to over 200 students ranging from beginners to advanced professionals. Like the theatre school, it has developed a

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## NEWS SHORTS

### WEB SITE POLICY AND PROCEDURES OPEN TO INTERNAL REVIEW

Wayne Herd of Audio-Visual Services at St. James and Marketing Services manager Jill Holroyd have put the finishing touches on the draft policy and procedures document for George Brown's World Wide Web site on the Internet. The document has been posted it for review by the internal college community. The Internet address is: <http://www.gbrownc.on.ca/GBCWEB/WebPol/DraftPol.html> Responses will be considered before the policy is official adopted by the college. Currently the Web site features general information about the college as well as the current editions of the continuing education calendar. For a paper version of the policy and procedures document call Yasmin Walli at 415-2059.

### COLLEGE TO OFFER ERGONOMIC TRAINING TO STAFF

Sitting comfortably? That's the aim of ergonomic training sessions that will be offered to college staff in October. The training will teach staff how to adjust their chairs, desks and computer terminals so they can avoid repetitive strain injuries. Those injuries — which can result from poorly adjusted office equipment — now account for about half of all lost-time claims in Ontario, according to college occupational health and safety manager Dave DiGiovanni. "In practice, ergonomics means designing work environments and specific jobs or tasks to fit the workers needs for comfort, health and safety, rather than expecting workers to adapt to otherwise uncomfortable situations which stress their bodies," he says. A study of staff in six college departments found room for ergonomic improvement, DiGiovanni says. The sessions will be held at Casa Loma Campus and St. James on Oct. 3 from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and repeated from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Casa Loma location is room C337 (auditorium) and the St. James sessions will be held in room 327/329 at 200 King St. E.

### NEW FINANCIAL CONTROLLER IS A COLLEGE GRADUATE

George Brown's new financial controller is a graduate of Fleming College in Peterborough, Ontario. After graduating with diplomas in Accounting and Information Systems, Ric Ho worked for several years for Canadian General Electric before accepting a position as senior financial officer with Centennial College in Scarborough, where he worked for the past 11 years. As George Brown's controller, he is responsible for the college's budget and accounting systems including accounts receivable and payable, financial statements, purchasing and payroll. Ho will also convert the college's internal financial systems to SCT Banner software in the coming months.

### EVENING SAFEWALK PROGRAM CONTINUES AT CAMPUSES

George Brown will continue its program of walking evening students from the college to their cars or transit stops this fall using campus security staff and evening supervisors. The Safewalk program is available from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Thursday. Students who would like to be accompanied should go to their campus security desk.



**CONQUERING MOUNT GEORGE BROWN** — It took moments of preparation and several minutes of hard work for this student to conquer Mount George Brown — a 15-foot-high plywood climbing wall that was part of Islandfest on Sept. 6. In addition to climbing walls, students had the opportunity at Islandfest to get stuck racing through a special course wearing a velcro suit, and pitching balls at a dunk-tank target. More than 300 students attended the afternoon picnic on Centre Island under a sunny sky. The event was sponsored by George Brown's Student Affairs Department and the George Brown Student Association.

## Most full-time enrolment targets met

Thanks to a summer of hard work by college staff, George Brown has met most of its enrolment targets for post-secondary students for this fall.

That's important because these students contribute the most to the college's overall budget — in the tuition they pay directly and more importantly in the provincial government grants they trigger. Not meeting these targets could prompt spending cuts to make up for lost revenue.

By Sept. 17, George Brown had enrolled 5,246 new full-time students and 3,661 returning students — totaling 8,907 — which is just 258 students shy of the college's revised enrolments target for the fall.

This achievement puts George Brown in line with most other Ontario colleges which expected no dramatic increases or decreases in student population. Keeping in line with other colleges ensures that George Brown's proportion of government funding remains constant.

"Essentially we hit what we wanted to hit," says academic vice-president Maureen Callahan. "We've met nearly all our targets."

Enrolling the right number of students this fall took some effort on the part of staff in many departments this spring and summer, Callahan says.

"It took a lot of hard work by a lot of people."

Staff handled more than 32,400 applications from people who wanted to start one of the college's 81 programs this fall — testing and interviewing thousands. Staff and students in many departments also contacted

potential students with letters and phone calls. Enrolment targets were shifted in the summer to allow more students to get into popular programs, and the college let the general public know about program availability through an August advertising campaign.

Some interesting facts:

- The college is enrolling 129 new and 56 returning interna-

Continued on page 4.

## Staff honoured with awards

College staff who reach the milestones of 10,15 or 20 years of full-time service at George Brown this year will be honoured at receptions in the coming months.

Staff who have been working full-time for 10 or 15 years in 1996 will be presented with Employee Service Recognition Awards at a wine and cheese reception with president Frank Sorochinsky on Oct. 31, 1996.

George Brown's Human Resources Department knows of at least 60 people who are eligible for the 10-year award and 29 who can get the 15-year award. The 10-year award is a key chain and the 15-year award is a lapel pin.

Staff who hit the 20-year mark this year become members of the college's 20-Year Club and will join other long-time staff and college retirees at a reception in May, 1997. The club, which was started in 1979, currently has more than 600 members.

Staff who think they are eligible for an award, but who have not received a questionnaire from Human Resources by early October, should call Roberta Oullahan at 415-4473.



## Theatre, dance

Continued from page 1.

reputation in the industry as one of the country's best.

Heinar Piller, chairperson of the department and artistic direc-

tor of the theatre school says that the move to newly renovated quarters has given a boost to the department.

Piller says there is a huge potential for growth in performing arts training and, given more space, programs and courses

could be expanded.

Students and staff at the college will have ample opportunity to witness the activities of the two schools. On Oct. 17 at Casa Loma and Oct. 22 at St. James the School of Classical and Contemporary Dance will offer free lunch-time concerts in conjunction with the Student Life department. Second-year theatre students will present a Remembrance Day production in the Casa Loma gym on Oct. 8. In addition, third-year theatre students will present their season of plays at George Brown Theatre, 530 King St. E. The first production is Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending* directed by David Perry and running from Oct. 31 to Nov. 17.

For theatre information call Lisa Trudel at 415-2167. For information on dance courses and performances call 415-2035.



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## FRANK SOROCHINSKY



Given the pace of change that we at George Brown have been dealing with over the past few months, it's understandable if our attention has been largely focused inward, on the challenges we face as an institution. The annual United Way campaign is a call to look outward and consider how we can contribute to the needs of our community at large.

All around the city there are signs of increasing pressure on social and health service agencies. For instance, 160,000 people in Metro Toronto use food banks every month and more than 25,000 people in Metro Toronto are homeless. Through its financial support to more than 200 community agencies, the United Way helps these and many more people in need.

George Brown is truly a college for our community. Our staff and programs are integrated with numerous community agencies, many of which receive critical financial support from the United Way of Greater Toronto. These include Dixon Hall, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and Toronto's Native Canadian Centre, just to name a few.

During this year's United Way campaign you will not be asked to attend pancake breakfasts, to participate in a walkathon or to support special fund-raising events. While enjoyable for everyone involved, they have rarely raised significant funds for the United Way. Instead, we are asking you to take a few moments to consider the needs of our community and the agencies working hard to meet those needs with decreasing resources.

In October, when you receive your personalized pledge card, please consider a pledge in any amount. With your support many people across our community can be given the chance they so desperately need.

Now that the fall semester is in full swing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who worked so hard to ensure we met our full-time enrolment targets.

I was impressed with the team effort by staff members from across the college — the support staff, faculty and administrators who worked throughout the spring and summer to process applications, telephone applicants, conduct advertising and direct mail campaigns, answer telephone and in-person inquiries, deliver calendars, and do the dozens of other tasks required to attract and enrol full-time students. Your hard work paid off with full classes this fall.

Of course, class start-up time is not without its difficulties. It is always a challenge to match classroom sizes to enrolment, and some faculty and students have been frustrated to find themselves in classrooms that are too small. While most situations have been remedied, I would ask for your patience and support as we work together to resolve the outstanding issues.

In the current fiscal climate, our ability to move forward with strategic plans and new initiatives is largely dependent on meeting our forecasted enrolment and revenue targets. While full-time enrolment is healthy, we are expecting a shortfall in continuing education enrolment. Staff across the college are hard at work to make up the shortfall, and we will need an extra effort from everyone to come in on target with winter enrolment. I'm confident that, working together, we have the ability and creativity to meet those targets.

## PLA office moves

George Brown's Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) office has moved from St. James to Casa Loma. It's now located in room C436, where it's staffed by Liz Ukrainetz. Ukrainetz can be reached by calling 415-2290 or by e-mail at [eukraine@gbrownc](mailto:eukraine@gbrownc). Prior learning assessment allows students to earn college course credits based on demonstrated skills acquired elsewhere, such as work experience.

TVO TELEFEST 1996

# TVO TELEFEST 1996

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## United Way helps agencies that work with college

A United Way donation helps many community agencies that are involved with George Brown programs, says the co-ordinator of the college's 1996 United Way campaign.

"We rely on these agencies as partners in the community — they help to deliver our programs or work with us and contribute to our stability," says Brian Cooper, who is also dean of the Hospitality Centre and the Faculty of Business.

Those agencies include Dixon Hall, Central Neighbourhood House, Alexander Park Community Centre, Woodgreen Community Centre, the Canadian Hearing Society, and the Native Canadian Centre, Cooper says.

United Way donations by George Brown staff can be directed to these agencies — or

any others an individual chooses — or given for general distribution to the 205 agencies in Metro that rely on the umbrella funding organization for a large part of their finances.

This year's campaign has the highest goal ever — \$52 million — in order to make up for the withdrawal of millions of dollars in provincial funding to community and social service agencies.

In the next few weeks all college staff will be sent a personalized pledge card that can be returned with a one-time donation or permission for payroll deductions throughout the year.

This year's campaign will focus on individual acts of giving and will forego the walkathon teams, pancake breakfasts and other special events that were featured for the last few years, Cooper says.

## A RECENT GEORGE BROWN GRADUATE REVEALS:

### "How I got my job"

"In the last semester of my first year, I was given a placement here at Conflict Mediation Services. They hired me that summer and then gave me a part-time job in my second year. Just before I graduated they offered me a job as director. My work involves administration, fundraising, training, supervising staff and mediations.

I have a lot of good things to say about the Community Worker program. The instructors have all worked in the field, so they know what they're talking about. They used their own contacts to help us network and get good placements. They taught us to be community workers, and in this field, it has to come from the heart.

I'm a university graduate, but I couldn't have gained the practical edge and confidence unless I'd come to George Brown. When I was reading college calendars I notice that George Brown says in theirs that they're committed to diversity. I saw that when I got there. In fact, the greatest asset of the program was the diversity of my classmates. That makes a huge difference."



Leslie Kirke  
Director, Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview  
1996 Community Worker Graduate

*Leslie Kirke appears in George Brown's 1997/98 full-time calendar, which became available in print on Sept. 23 — and will be soon on the college's Web site (<http://www.gbrownc.on.ca>).*

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# OCTOBER EVENTS

Oct. 1 - Men's intervarsity soccer game vs. Mohawk College, 5 p.m. Keele'sdale Park (Keele and Eglington). Women's team plays Mohawk at 7 p.m. at the same location.

Oct. 3 - George Brown's intervarsity baseball team plays the University of Toronto, 6 p.m. Christie Pits Park.

Oct. 5 - George Brown's intervarsity baseball team plays Queen's University, 2 p.m. Christie Pits Park.

Oct. 8 - Second year Theatre students present a free Remembrance Day production, Casa Loma gym. Time TBA. For information call 415-2167.

- Men's intervarsity soccer game vs. Humber College, 5 p.m. Keele'sdale Park (Keele and Eglington). Women's team plays Mohawk at 7 p.m. at the same location.

Oct. 14 - Thanksgiving: College closed

Oct. 17 - School of Classical and Contemporary Dance free lunch-time performance, Casa Loma Campus. Location and time TBA. For information call 415-2035.

- The provincial government's Advisory Panel on Future Directions for Post-secondary Education will hold a consultation session with representatives of Metro universities and colleges at St. James Campus. George Brown will make its submission to the panel at 1:30 p.m. in room 560E at St. James Campus. Limited seating for observers is available for that session. For information call Enid Bailey at 415-4479.

Oct. 16 - Exhibition basketball game: George Brown's intervarsity teams

vs. alumni, St. James gym. Women play at 6 p.m., men play at 8 p.m.

Oct. 22 - School of Classical and Contemporary Dance free lunch-time performance, St. James Campus. Location and time TBA. For information call 415-2035.

Oct. 23 - Annual areobathon to raise money for athletics and athletic scholarships. Casa Loma gym. Noon to 4 p.m. with 15-minute breaks every hour for participants. Pledge sheets are available from athletic offices at all campuses. For information call 415-4714 (Casa Loma) or

## Enrolment targets

**Continued from page 1.** tional students this fall. Most international students enrol in programs offered by the Faculty of Creative Work and the Hospitality Centre.

• George Brown accepted 13,996 people for admission — about 43 per cent of the total applicant pool.

• The most popular programs this fall included Accounting, with more than 1,700 applications, Dental Assistant (1469 applicants), Marketing (1463 applicants), Early Childhood Education (1448 applicants), Nursing (1270 applicants), and Child and Youth Worker (1265 applicants).

• Technology, Hospitality and Creative Work programs had the largest increases in enrolment.

415-2176 (St. James).

- Table Tennis Tournament. Casa Loma gym starting at 4 p.m. Register by Oct. 7. For information call 415-2176.

Oct. 31 - President's reception for staff who have worked full-time at George Brown for 10 and 15 years. 4 to 6 p.m. Hospitality Centre Room 310 For information call Roberta

## CITY COLLEGE NEWS

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George Brown  
  
The City College

Oullahan at 415-4473.

- Opening night of the George Brown Theatre production of Orpheus Descending by Tennessee Williams, directed by David Ferry, 530 King St. E. Runs until Nov. 17. For times,

tickets or reservations call Performing Arts at 415-2167.

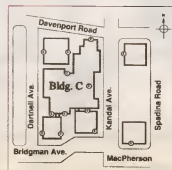
- Nomination deadline for Staff Awards of Excellence. For information call Jeanette Cairns at 415-4472.

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